Schools in minority-dominated districts

988. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any priority is given to minority-dominated 90 districts in opening up of 6,000 schools, proposed to be opened in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such districts in Andhra Pradesh, which are eligible to get the benefit of opening up of Model Senior Secondary schools there;

(c) whether any consultations have been made with the National Minorities Education Committee; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister in his Independence Day Speech on 15.08.07 has announced the decision of the Government to support 6,000 high quality model schools throughout the country, at the rate of one in every block, to set standards of excellence for other schools in the area. The proposal includes including minority dominated blocks and blocks in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Attendence of children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†989. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made in respect of the children not going to schools in the country under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the number of such children, State-wise; and

(c) the special efforts being made under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to send those children to schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), an independent survey was commissioned in July-August, 2005 which brought out that 1.34 crore children were out of school in the 6-14 years age group. This figure has reduced to 75.97 lakhs in March, 2007 as per State Government Reports. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Since, the remaining out of school children constitute "the most difficult to access group", context specific interventions for children who are "hard to reach", such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, have been taken up under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme. The Government of India has undertaken orientation and capacity building workshops with States/UTs with illustrative case studies of good practices, to encourage State/districts to implement such context specific interventions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.